Amendments to the claims

Please amend the claims as shown:

1.-26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A system for the layout-oriented recording of control-relevant information, comprising:

a first mechanism for graphically describing structures comprising components;

a second mechanism for graphically establishing at least one directed relationship between the components;

a third mechanism for specifying a control-relevant interconnection of the components depending on the established relationships, wherein the establishment of the directed relationships between the components is accomplished based at least on one the following relationships in a process-engineering and/or production-engineering plant: a material flow between at least two components, an energy flow between said at least two components and an information flow between said at least two components; and

a graphical user interface configured to display at least one of the following: a graphical representation of the material flow between said at least two components, a graphical representation of the energy flow between said at least two components, and a representation of the information flow between said at least two components, wherein the information flow further comprises information flow from components that precede said at least two components and which runs in a direction opposite to a direction of the material flow or opposite to a direction of the energy flow to provide a graphical two-way traceability in the process-engineering and/or the production-engineering plant.

28. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, wherein the components are physical components.

29. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, wherein the control-relevant information is provided for recording for an automation system of a process-engineering and/or production-engineering plant.

30. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, wherein the components are embodied as types having type-dependent properties and data interfaces.

31. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 30, wherein the types are provided in a library.

32. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, wherein the interconnection of the components is accomplished via the data interfaces.

33-34. (cancelled)

35. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, wherein the establishment of the directed relationships between data interfaces of adjacent components is accomplished on the basis of a distance of the components from each other and by using information about the data interfaces.

36. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, wherein type information, and/or entity information, and/or location information about the components is provided for use from the graphical layout.

37. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, further comprising a fourth mechanism for the layout-oriented adding of further properties to the components.

38. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, wherein the components are combined into groups in a layout-oriented manner.

39. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 38, further comprising a layout-oriented assignment of higher-order semantics to the groups.

40. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, further comprising an assignment of elements for delimiting permitted value ranges, and/or attributes to components, and/or functional groups, and/or data interfaces.

41. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 27, further comprising a layout-oriented generation of a network configuration for the communication of the components of a process-engineering and/or production-engineering plant.

42. (currently amended) A method for layout-oriented acquiring of control-relevant information, comprising:

graphically describing structures having individual components;

graphically establishing at least one directed relationship between the individual components; and

defining a control-relevant interconnection of the individual components on the basis of the established relationships, wherein the establishing of the directed relationships between the components is accomplished based at least on one the following relationships in a process-engineering and/or production-engineering plant: a material flow between at least two components, an energy flow between said at least two components and an information flow between said at least two components; and

displaying at least one of the following: a graphical representation of the material flow between said at least two components, a graphical representation of the energy flow between said at least two components, and a representation of the information flow between said at least two components, wherein the information flow further comprises information flow from components that precede said at least two components and which runs in a direction opposite to a direction of the material flow or opposite to a direction of the energy flow to provide a graphical two-way traceability in the process-engineering and/or the production-engineering plant.

43. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 42, wherein the control-relevant information is acquired for an automation system of a process-engineering and/or production-engineering plant.

44. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 42, wherein the components are managed in a library as types having type-dependent properties and data interfaces.

45. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 42, wherein the components are interconnected by data interfaces of the components.

46. (cancelled)